definite proposals for organising measures for controlling and combating the disease. A small provision has been made for this purpose, as a first instalment.

26. *Public Works.* The allotment for ordinary Public Works expenditure for the next year is Rs 33·27 lakhs as against Rs 32·57 lakhs for the current year. This grant is exclusive of the works provided for in the Capital Section of the budget and those proposed to be met out of the Road Development Fund.

In view of the frequent droughts and the inadequacy of the Kodayar Reservoir Supply, the irrigation needs of the State especially those of South Travancore are engaging the attention of Government. A provision of Rs. 25 of a lakh has been made in the next year's budget for immediate improvements to the irrigation tanks and their restoration. Provision has also been included for the investigation of an irrigation scheme to augment the supply from the Kodayar Reservoir. A sum of Rs 17,500 has been provided for the supply of drinking water from wells in places where it is absolutely necessary especially in South Travancore and Shencotta. As an annual expenditure of Rs 1,000 is being now incurred for the supply of water to the Muttam Village, a permanent scheme costing Rs 32,000 is proposed to be taken up and a provision of Rs 25,000 has been made for the purpose in the Capital Section of the budget.

The Main Southern Road. It is proposed to provide dustless surfacing for this road from Trivandrum to Cape Comorin with cement concrete for the portion from Trivandrum to Thamaraculam Junction and tarcrete from thence to Cape Comorin. The whole work including stone metal berms 4 inches on either side of the special surfacing is estimated to cost Rs 14·76 lakhs. A lump sum provision of Rs 7 lakhs has been made for the purpose under capital expenditure.

27. *Road Development Fund.* The Government of India have instituted the Road Development Fund with a view to subsidise States and Provinces in their undertaking of works of improvement and development of the means of communication. An Excise duty of 2½ annas per gallon is levied on petrol produced in British India and a similar duty is levied as countervailing duty on all petrol imported into British India from foreign countries including Burma. Out of the net receipts on this account a sum not exceeding 15 per cent. is kept by the Government of India as Special Reserve and out of this Reserve Fund, the Government of India have allowed the Travancore Government a special grant amounting to half the estimated cost of construction of the Alwaye Bridge. The balance is distributed on the basis of consumption of petrol and our share on this account during 1937-38 amounted to Rs 2,30,345. Our share of the petrol duty so far as it related to imports at the port of Cochin having been included in the share of the customs receipts paid to us under the Cochin Harbour Agreement, a sum of Rs 1,53,087 has been deducted and the balance of Rs 77,258 was paid to this Government.

The contributions received are not appropriated for ordinary revenue expenditure, but credited to a separate fund and utilised on the improvements of our main trunk roads.

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